

Proclamation

WHEREAS, one in three female high school students report being physically abused or sexually abused by a dating partner; and

WHEREAS, females ages 16 - 24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group; and

WHEREAS, among female victims of intimate partner violence, a current or former boyfriend or girlfriend victimized 94 percent of those between the ages of 16 - 19; and

WHEREAS, more than 40 percent of male and female high school students surveyed had been victims of dating violence at least once; and

WHEREAS, violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims who are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization; and

WHEREAS, 81 percent of parents surveyed either believed dating violence is not a problem or admitted they did not know it was a problem; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the State of Hawai`i's "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week" will benefit schools, communities and families, regardless of socio-economic status, race or gender; and

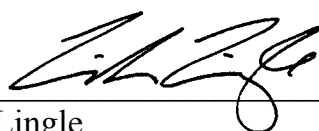
WHEREAS, the Hawai`i State Commission on the Status of Women and Commissioners Margaret Masunaga, Sheila Leas, Susan Porsche, Mary Jo Sweeney, Carol Philips and Mona Chang Vierra, in conjunction with the American Bar Association, Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children are working together to educate the public about preventing teenage dating violence,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai`i, do hereby proclaim February 6 through 10, 2006, as

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

in Hawai`i, and urge all citizens to take part in activities and observances designed to promote awareness of the issues surrounding teen dating violence awareness and prevention.

Done at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai`i, this thirtieth day of January 2006.



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai`i